

# Brightwater

## T R E A T M E N T S Y S T E M

### King County unveils Brightwater system mitigation plan

King County completed a systemwide mitigation package in December that is now available to the public. The package outlines the actions King County will take to reduce impacts of building and operating Brightwater and make sure the facilities are good neighbors to surrounding communities.

The package was developed following several years of continuing discussions with community members, jurisdictions and permitting agencies. Public process had a significant role in developing the current package. People shared ideas for mitigation throughout the four-year Brightwater siting process that began in 1999.

**See graphic on pages 2 and 3 for details about mitigation at each Brightwater facility location.**

In fall 2004, King County held a series of public meetings where people in communities with future Brightwater facilities shared their ideas and suggestions about mitigation specific to the facilities.

Jurisdiction staff, agency staff and elected officials attended the meetings to hear from their community members. People were also encouraged to submit ideas by e-mail, mail or phone calls to the project office.

Final decisions weighed community member priorities, permitting requirements, and commitments made to jurisdictions through formal agreements. Laws and rules guiding mitigation at the local, state, tribal and federal levels also affected decision-making.

King County will spend about \$135 million for mitigation. In addition, King County will

dedicate about \$50 million for odor control systems to make sure the facilities are good neighbors to host communities. Another \$4.3 million will be invested in public art mitigation to address any aesthetic impacts and enhance the visible treatment plant site and conveyance facilities.

The mitigation package marks the end of another Brightwater decision-making process. But during the next year, people can take part in workshops to review architectural design of permanent facilities at tunnel portal sites along the conveyance alignment. (We'll announce meeting details later.) Community members may also want to work with their local jurisdiction to discuss specific plans for mitigation funding or transferred land.

Phased construction of Brightwater will begin in 2006 and

some preconstruction activities, such as demolishing buildings and clearing and grading, have already begun. King County is meeting with neighbors to keep them informed about construction schedules and upcoming activities. Brightwater staff will work throughout construction to keep people informed, and neighbors will be able to call a 24-hour construction hot line to report concerns.

To learn more about the Brightwater project and upcoming activities, including meetings in your community, please visit our Web site or contact the project office. (See Page 4)

#### Toll-free line discontinued

Because of decreasing use, King County discontinued the Brightwater project toll-free telephone line at the end of 2005.

The line was set up at the beginning of the Brightwater siting process five years ago to make sure that people could talk to project staff in Seattle without having to pay for a long-distance call.

As more decisions on Brightwater locations were made, the toll-free line wasn't used much. The project office at the plant site north of Woodinville is a local call (206-684-6799) to neighbors in the Brightwater host communities. And costs to provide the toll-free line would increase in 2006.

Hearing from community members is still important to us. People can continue to call, e-mail or write the project office with questions or concerns and request a call back from a staff member. People can also stop by the project office during business hours. (See Page 4.)

#### Get details on the Brightwater mitigation package

The mitigation package summary and copies of the signed formal agreements with jurisdictions are available on the Brightwater Project Web site: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/>. For paper copies, contact the Brightwater project office (see Page 4).

**King County**Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Wastewater Treatment Division



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## Inside This Issue

- King County unveils Brightwater systemwide mitigation package
- Map showing mitigation by host community



This information is provided in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities on request by calling the Wastewater Treatment Division at 206-684-1280 or 711 TTY.

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## Mitigation and art on other wastewater projects

*Each Brightwater mitigation project will have unique features based on agreements with jurisdictions, community guidelines, local statutes, and permitting requirements. But these examples show how mitigation measures planned for Brightwater were carried out at other wastewater treatment facilities.*



**Road and traffic improvements.** After work ended on the Henderson/M.L. King CSO Project in Seattle's Rainier Valley, nearby roads affected by the project were widened, repaved and restriped. Mitigation on other projects has included intersection improvements and new sidewalks or bike lanes.



**Public art.** For permitting purposes and for aesthetic mitigation, King County will set aside 1 percent of some project costs for public art. Public art deters vandalism and makes facilities attractive neighbors. The North Creek Pump Station in Bothell and the West Seattle Pump Station are examples of how King County has built public art into its facilities.



© 1996, Susan Point, Water -- the Essence of Life



**New and restored wetlands, public open space, enhanced landscaping, stream and habitat improvements.** During the West Point Treatment Plant expansion in the 1990s, King County set aside 26 acres of shoreline for public access and restored wetlands and habitat that had been lost.

**Space for education and community meetings.** Thousands of students each year visit the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver, Wash., at the Marine Park Water Reclamation Facility, a wastewater treatment plant. The center also has space available for community meetings and events.



**Recreation, environmental education, enhanced storm-water treatment.**

Waterworks Gardens Park next to the South Treatment Plant in Renton is more than a place to play. The ponds and wetlands are part of a natural system that purifies, reclaims and reuses stormwater from the plant. Pathways enable people to "walk through" the water purification cycle.





# Why invest in mitigation?

When it begins operating in 2010, Brightwater will benefit the region by providing essential wastewater treatment facilities to protect public health, the environment and our economy for the next generation of Puget Sound area residents.

But the impacts of building Brightwater will not be shared regionally. The communities hosting Brightwater facilities will be affected most by construction and operation. And because Brightwater is such a complex project, the impacts on each host community will be different.

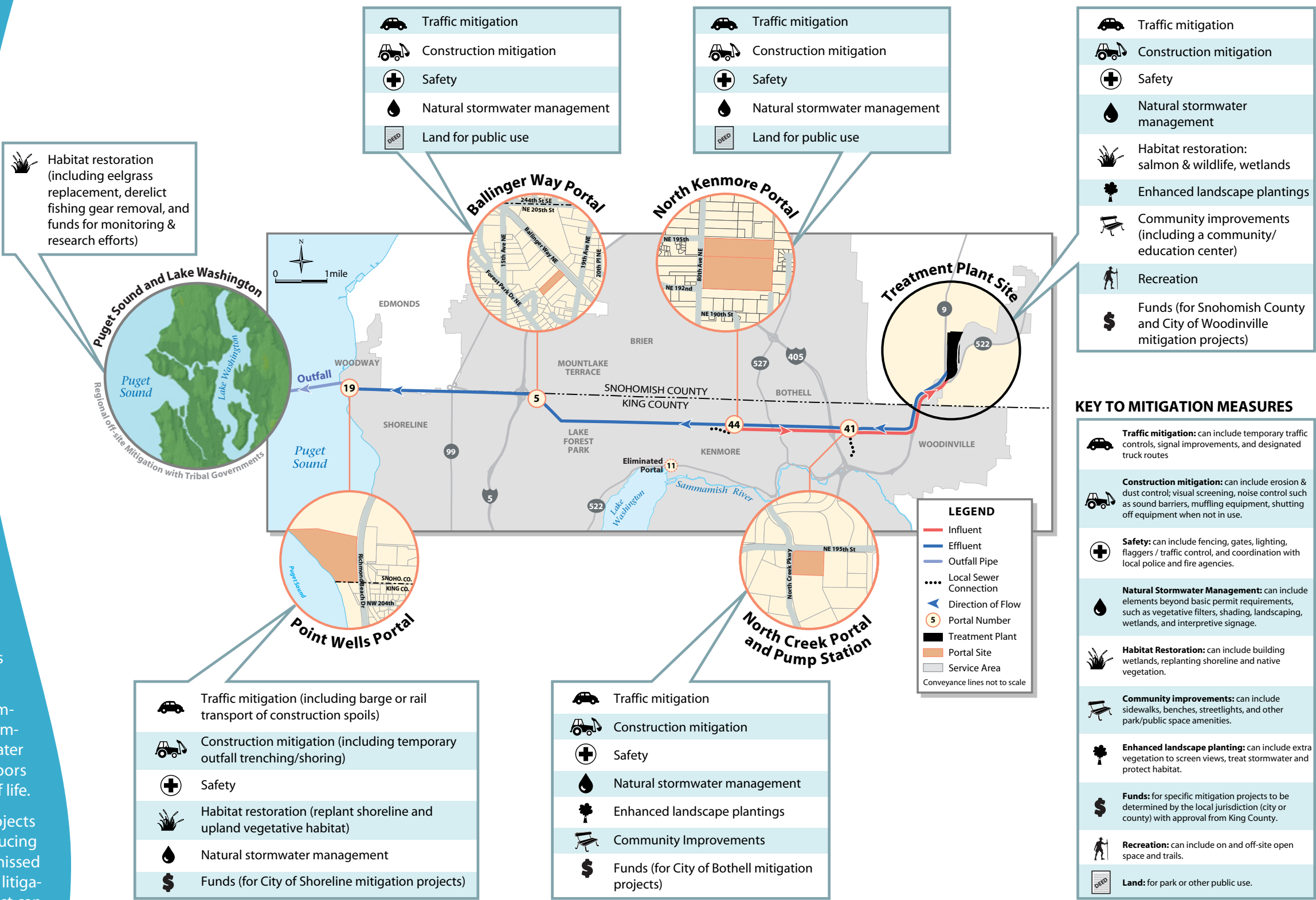
King County considered these issues when working with jurisdictions to develop agreements on mitigation and permitting. The county wanted to make sure the final mitigation package would be fair – to affected host jurisdictions, community members, and sewer ratepayers throughout the service area.

King County’s mitigation commitments will help reassure community members that Brightwater facilities will be good neighbors that will protect their quality of life.

The agreements also help projects move forward on schedule, reducing costs from permitting delays, missed construction seasons and even litigation. And that means the project can be built on time and on budget.

# Mitigation Measures

From permit conditions, interlocal agreements, environmental review process (SEPA/FEIS), and community feedback/design standards **December 2005**



## Project elements included in the Brightwater project/ design but not paid for with mitigation funds

- Treatment plant
- 13 miles of conveyance pipeline system
- North Creek pump station
- Outfall off Point Wells
- Multistage odor control system
- Reserve fund for odor control
- Basic stormwater treatment
- Basic landscape plantings
- Groundwater monitoring
- Back-up power
- Reclaimed water
- 1% for public art
- Mitigation for direct impacts of construction, including measures to reduce noise, dust and traffic.

# Stay involved in Brightwater

Community involvement continues to be an important part of the Brightwater project. We have an active speakers bureau and welcome the opportunity to meet with your neighborhood association or community group to discuss the Brightwater project or other water quality issues. If you are interested in arranging a speaker for your next group meeting, please contact us.

## We also welcome your comments, concerns, or ideas

Our address:

**22509 State Route 9 S.E.  
Suite 101  
Woodinville, WA  
98072-6010**

### E-mail

[brightwater@metrokc.gov](mailto:brightwater@metrokc.gov)

### Phone

206-684-6799, toll free at  
1-888-707-8571 or 711 TTY

### Web site

<http://www.dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater>

### Fax

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To keep community members informed about upcoming project activities, we are creating mailing lists for each of the Brightwater construction sites. If you are interested, give us your name, let us know which list you'd like to be on, and tell us how you prefer to be contacted. We occasionally send out e-mail updates between construction flier mailings.

- ☐ Route 9 treatment plant site
- ☐ North Creek portal site (Bothell)
- ☐ North Kenmore portal site
- ☐ Ballinger Way portal site (Shoreline)
- ☐ Point Wells portal site (Shoreline/Woodway)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information by  
(please check one or both)

☐ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ U.S. mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Projected Brightwater Timeline

